

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A dental appliance adapted to be worn in a mouth of a user having one or more types of teeth, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped base having a flat occlusal surface wherein the flat occlusal surface is shaped to contact ~~contacts~~ the teeth wherein the base is preformed and has a length defined between a first end and a second end;

a first wall extending from the flat surface wherein the first wall defines an interior surface;

a second wall extending from the flat surface wherein the second wall defines an exterior surface;

a slot in the base wherein the slot is defined between the first wall and the second wall wherein the slot extends along the length of the base from the first end of the base to the second end of the base ~~from a first portion of the base to a second portion of the base~~ wherein the slot defines a width of the flat occlusal surface wherein the width of the slot increases from a the first portion of the base slot to a second portion of the slot wherein the first portion of the slot is shaped to contact ~~which contacts~~ a front of the mouth ~~to a~~ wherein the second portion of the slot is shaped to extend ~~which extends further~~ rearward in the mouth and further wherein the second portion of the slot is sized to receive ~~accommodates~~ canine type of teeth of the user wherein the second

portion of the slot is shaped to move the canine type of teeth when the base is worn by the user wherein the second portion of the slot is shaped to correct the malocclusion of the canine type teeth.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 1 wherein the first portion ~~contacts~~ is sized to receive an incisor type of tooth.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 1 wherein the ~~second~~ first portion of the slot is sized to receive teeth which are located toward a front of the mouth with respect to the canine type teeth of the user ~~contacts a canine type of tooth.~~

Claim 4 (currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 1 further comprising:

lingual tabs formed within the interior surface wherein the lingual tabs are positioned to extend rearward into the mouth of the user when the base is worn by the user.

Claim 5 (original): The dental appliance of Claim 1 wherein the base is constructed from a moisture-absorbent material.

Claim 6 (original): The dental appliance of Claim 1 wherein the base is constructed from a first material and a second material wherein the first material is softer than the second material.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 1 further comprising:

suction cups formed ~~with~~ in the base.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A dental appliance adapted to be worn

in a mouth of a user having one or more types of teeth wherein one of the types of teeth is canine teeth, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped base having an occlusal surface which contacts the teeth when the base is worn by the user; and

wedges formed within the occlusal surface wherein each of the wedges extend outward with respect to the occlusal surface to form an apex which is shaped to extend ~~extends~~ toward a canine tooth and to contact ~~contacts~~ the canine tooth wherein the wedges are positioned on the base to move the canine tooth when the base is worn by the user wherein the wedges are shaped to prevent malocclusion within the mouth when the base is worn by the user.

Claim 9 (original): The dental appliance of Claim 8 further comprising:

a second base attached to the U-shaped base wherein the second base has an occlusal surface.

Claim 10 (original): The dental appliance of Claim 8 further comprising:

one or more sockets wherein the sockets are shaped to receive a second type of teeth wherein the type is not canine teeth.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 8 wherein the base is thicker in an area which is shaped to receive ~~contacts~~ a first type of teeth than a second area which is shaped to receive ~~that contacts~~ a second type of teeth.

Claim 12 (original): The dental appliance of Claim 8 further comprising:

a wire embedded within the base.

Claim 13 (original): The dental appliance of Claim 8 wherein the base is sized to contact at least one of the teeth but not all of the teeth.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A dental appliance adapted to be worn in a mouth of a user having teeth, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped base;

sockets within the base wherein at least one of the sockets is preformed wherein at least one of the sockets has peripheral walls defining an interior wherein the interior is shaped to receive a first tooth wherein the peripheral walls separate a first tooth from a second tooth wherein the sockets are shaped to treat a malocclusion; and

a suction cup extending from the base wherein the suction cup has a concave surface which contacts the mouth and adheres to the mouth wherein the suction cup is molded into the base wherein the suction cup prevents to prevent movement of the base when the base is worn in the mouth of the user.

Claim 15 (original): The dental appliance of Claim 14 wherein the suction cup is removably attached to the base.

Claim 16 (original): The dental appliance of Claim 14 wherein the

sockets are preformed.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 14 wherein at least one of the sockets is customized.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 14 further comprising:

wedges formed on the base wherein the wedges contact the teeth of the user when the base is worn by the user.

Claim.19 (original): The dental appliance of Claim 14 wherein the sockets are flat.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 14 further comprising:

a liner on the base wherein the liner has a surface which is shaped to contact ~~contacts~~ the mouth to prevent the base from moving within the mouth when the base is worn by the user.

Claim 21 (currently amended): Dental appliances adapted to be worn consecutively by a user to treat a malocclusion of teeth of the user, the dental appliances comprising:

a first device having a generally U-shaped base having a flat occlusal surface wherein the flat occlusal surface of the first device is shaped to contact ~~contacts~~ the teeth of the user wherein the first device is preformed wherein the first device is shaped to correct at least a portion of the malocclusion; and

a second device having a generally U-shaped base having a flat occlusal surface wherein the flat occlusal surface of the second

device is shaped to contact ~~contacts~~ teeth of the user and wherein the second device is sized larger than the first device wherein the second device is shaped to move the teeth when the second device is worn by the user wherein the second device is shaped to correct the malocclusion of the teeth of the user.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The dental appliances of Claim 21 wherein the first device is sized to treat a first type of dentition and the second device is sized to treat a second type of dentition wherein the first type of dentition and the second type of dentition are different.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The dental appliances of Claim 21 wherein the ~~first~~ second device is preformed.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The dental appliances of Claim 21 wherein the first device is customized.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The dental appliances of Claim 21 wherein the first device is created from stereolithography.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The dental appliances of Claim 21 wherein the first device is created from a digital model.

Claim 27 (currently amended): Dental appliances adapted to be worn consecutively by a user to treat a malocclusion as a dentition of the user changes, the dental appliances comprising:

a first device having a generally U-shaped base having a flat occlusal surface wherein the occlusal surface is shaped to contact ~~contacts~~ teeth of the user wherein the first device is sized to

treat a first type of dentition wherein at least one tooth of the first type of dentition device is a deciduous tooth; and

a second device having a generally U-shaped base having a flat occlusal surface wherein the occlusal surface is shaped to contact ~~contacts~~ teeth of the user wherein the second device is sized to treat a second type of dentition wherein the first type of dentition and the second type of dentition are different wherein at least one tooth of the second type of dentition is a permanent tooth wherein the first device and the second device are shaped to correct the malocclusion.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The dental appliances of Claim 27 wherein the first type of dentition is a deciduous dentition.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The dental appliances of Claim 27 wherein the first type of dentition is a mixed dentition.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The dental appliances of Claim 27 wherein the first type of dentition is a permanent dentition.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The dental appliances of Claim 27 wherein the occlusal surface of the first device has at least one socket.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The dental appliances of Claim 27 wherein the first device is preformed.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The dental appliances of Claim 27 wherein the first device is customized.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The dental appliances of Claim 27

further comprising:

a wire embedded within the first device.

Claim 35 (currently amended): A dental appliance adapted to be worn in a mouth of a user having teeth, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped base having an occlusal surface wherein the occlusal surface contacts the teeth when the dental appliance is worn by the user;

a first wall extending from the occlusal surface wherein the first wall defines an interior surface;

a second wall extending from the occlusal surface wherein the second wall defines an exterior surface and wherein the first wall and the second wall define a width of the occlusal surface; and

a wire embedded within the base wherein the wire extends from a top surface of the second wall toward the teeth when the base is worn by the user wherein the wire is shaped to contact and contacts a first tooth wherein the first tooth is an incisor type tooth the teeth.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 35 further comprising:

a first socket within the occlusal surface having a first size; and

a second socket within the occlusal surface having a second size wherein the first size and the second size are different.

Claim 37 (currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 35 further comprising:

a labial shield extending from the second wall wherein the labial shield is shaped to cover ~~covers~~ the teeth.

Claim 38 (currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 35 further comprising:

lingual tabs extending from the first wall wherein the lingual tabs extend into the mouth when the dental appliance is worn by the user.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 35 wherein the occlusal surface is flat.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 35 further comprising:

suction cups extending from the occlusal surface.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 35 further comprising:

a reline material on the occlusal surface.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 35 wherein the base is constructed from a first material and a second material wherein the first material is softer than the second material.

Claim 43 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 35 further comprising:

a vertical slit on the exterior surface.

Claim 44 (currently amended): A dental appliance adapted to be worn in a mouth of a user having one or more types of teeth, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped base having a flat occlusal surface wherein the occlusal surface is shaped to contact ~~contacts~~ the teeth; and

at least one socket within the occlusal surface wherein each socket has a first wall and a second wall wherein the second wall separates a first tooth from a second tooth wherein the socket is ~~shaped~~ sized based on anatomical standards for teeth wherein at least one socket is shaped to receive canine type teeth regardless of anatomical variations of the canine type teeth of the user.

Claim 45 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 44 wherein the socket is sized to receive two or more teeth.

Claim 46 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 44 wherein the socket is sized to receive one tooth.

Claim 47 (currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 44 further comprising:

lingual tabs extending from the base wherein the lingual tabs extend rearward into the mouth when the base is worn by the user.

Claim 48 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 44 wherein the flat occlusal surface is sized to receive two or more teeth.

Claim 49 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 44

further comprising:

a wire embedded within the base.

Claim 50 (currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 44 further comprising:

a liner on the base wherein the liner is adapted to cause ~~causes~~ adhesion between the base and the teeth.

Claim 51 (currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 44 further comprising:

a labial shield extending from the second wall wherein the labial shield is shaped to cover ~~covers~~ the teeth.

Claim 52 (previously presented): A method for diagnosing an orthodontic condition of a patient, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an analysis means for the patient to analyze a position of one or more teeth within a mouth of the patient wherein a width of the mouth is measured by the analysis means; and

displaying a tooth arrangement to which the patient compares the position of the one or more teeth.

Claim 53 (currently amended): The method of Claim 52 further comprising the step of:

distributing a dental appliance to the patient after the patient compares the position of the one or more teeth wherein a size of the dental appliance corresponds to the width of the mouth.

Claim 54 (previously presented): The method of Claim 52 wherein

the analysis means is a ruler.

Claim 55 (previously presented): The method of Claim 52 wherein the analysis means is a mirror.

Claim 56 (previously presented): The method of Claim 52 wherein the analysis means is a packaging displaying an image of teeth.

Claim 57 (previously presented): The method of Claim 52 wherein the analysis means is a camera.

Claim 58 (currently amended): A dental appliance adapted to be worn in a mouth of a user having teeth wherein a first tooth is a canine tooth, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped base having an occlusal surface which is shaped to contact ~~contacts~~ the teeth when the base is worn by the user wherein the occlusal surface has ~~an~~ a first area wherein the first area is sized to receive ~~accommodates~~ the canine tooth wherein the first area is shaped to receive the canine teeth regardless of anatomical variations of the canine type teeth of the user; and

an incisal edge within the first area of the occlusal surface wherein the incisal edge inclines outward with respect to the ~~with~~ occlusal surface and wherein the incisal edge is sized to contact ~~contacts~~ the canine tooth and further wherein the incisal edge is shaped to move the canine tooth wherein the incisal edge is shaped to prevent a malocclusion of the teeth of the user ~~within the mouth.~~

Claim 59 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 58 further comprising:

a second base attached to the U-shaped base wherein the second base has an occlusal surface.

Claim 60 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 58 further comprising:

one or more sockets wherein the sockets are shaped to receive a second tooth wherein the second tooth is not a canine tooth.

Claim 61 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 58 further comprising:

a wire embedded within the base.

Claim 62 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 58 wherein the occlusal surface has a second area shaped to receive a second tooth wherein the second tooth is not a canine tooth.

Claim 63 (currently amended): A dental appliance adapted to be worn in a mouth of a user having one or more types of teeth, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped base having a flat occlusal surface wherein the flat occlusal surface is shaped to contact ~~contacts~~ the teeth of the user wherein the base has a length defined between a first end and a second end;

a first wall extending from the flat surface wherein the first wall defines an interior surface;

a second wall extending from the flat surface wherein the

second wall defines an exterior surface; and

a slot in the base wherein the slot is located between the first wall and the second wall wherein the slot extends along the length of the base from the first end of the base to the second end of the base wherein the slot defines a width of the flat occlusal surface wherein the slot has a first portion, a second portion, a third portion and a fourth portion wherein the second portion is rearward in the mouth of the user with respect to the first portion wherein the third portion is rearward in the mouth of the user with respect to the second portion wherein the fourth portion is rearward in the mouth with respect to the third portion wherein the width continuously increases from the first portion to the fourth portion of the base ~~wherein the first portion is sized to receive which contacts~~ an incisor type of tooth ~~to a~~ wherein the fourth portion which is sized to receive ~~contacts~~ a molar type of tooth of the user and further wherein the second portion and the third portion are shaped to contact teeth located between the incisor type of tooth and the molar type tooth wherein the slot corrects a malocclusion of the teeth.

Claim 64 (currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 63 further comprising:

lingual tabs formed within the interior surface wherein the lingual tabs are positioned to extend rearward into the mouth of the user when the dental appliance is worn by the user.

Claim 65 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 63 wherein the base is constructed from a moisture-absorbent material.

Claim 66 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 63 wherein the base is constructed from a first material and a second material wherein the first material is softer than the second material.

Claim 67 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 63 further comprising:

suction cups formed with the base.

Claim 68 (currently amended): A dental appliance adapted to be worn in a mouth of a user having one or more types of teeth, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped base having a flat occlusal surface wherein the flat occlusal surface is shaped to contact ~~contacts~~ the teeth and further wherein the base is preformed; and

a first pre-formed socket and a second pre-formed socket within the flat occlusal surface wherein the first socket is sized to receive a canine type tooth wherein the first socket separates the canine type tooth from teeth which are not canine type of teeth wherein the second socket is shaped to receive at least one of the teeth which is not the canine type of teeth of the user wherein the first socket moves the canine type tooth with respect to the teeth when the base is worn by the user.

Claim 69 (currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 68

wherein the second socket is sized to receive two or more teeth of the user.

Claim 70 (currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 68 wherein the second socket is customized to receive at least one of the teeth which is not the canine type teeth of the user.

Claim 71 (currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 68 further comprising:

lingual tabs extending from the base wherein the lingual tabs extend rearward into the mouth when the base is worn by the user.

Claim 72 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 68 further comprising:

a wire embedded within the base.

Claim 73 (currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 68 further comprising:

a liner on the base wherein the liner adheres ~~causes adhesion between~~ the base ~~and~~ to the teeth of the user when the dental appliance is worn by the user.

Claim 74 (currently amended): A dental appliance adapted to be worn in a mouth of a user having teeth, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped base;

sockets within the base wherein one of the sockets receives at least one of the teeth of the user wherein at least one of the sockets is sized to receive a canine type tooth and separates the canine type tooth from the teeth of the user which are not canine

type teeth wherein the socket is shaped to move the canine type tooth from a first position to a second position wherein the second position is closer to a front of the mouth of the user than the first position when the base is worn by the user; and

a liner in one of the sockets wherein the liner has a thickness defined between a top surface and a bottom surface wherein the bottom surface of the liner attaches to at least one of the sockets wherein the top surface of the liner contacts the teeth when the base is worn by the user wherein the liner is shaped to contact ~~contacts~~ the teeth mouth and ~~prevents~~ wherein the liner prevents movement of the base away from the teeth when the base is worn in the mouth of the user.

Claim 75 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 74 wherein one of the sockets is customized to receive at least one of the teeth of the user.

Claim 76 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 74 wherein the base is preformed.

Claim 77 (currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 74 further comprising:

wedges formed on the base wherein the wedges are sized to receive ~~contact~~ the teeth of the user wherein the wedges contact the canine type tooth.

Claim 78 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 74 wherein one of the sockets is flat.

Claim 79 (currently amended): A dental appliance adapted to be worn in a mouth of a user having one or more types of teeth, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped base having a flat occlusal surface wherein the flat occlusal surface contacts the teeth when the base is worn by the user;

a socket within the flat occlusal surface wherein the socket is shaped to receive one or more of the teeth of the user; and

a rib on the flat occlusal surface wherein the rib is shaped to contact ~~contacts~~ one or more of the teeth wherein the rib is positioned to contact an interproximal area of at least one tooth of the user when the base is worn by the user wherein the interproximal area is located between a first tooth and a second tooth and further wherein the rib guides one or more teeth of the user toward a position correcting a malocclusion of the teeth of the user when the base is worn by the user.

Claim 80 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 79 wherein the base is preformed.

Claim 81 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 79 wherein the socket is customized to receive one or more teeth of the user.

Claim 82 (currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 79 further comprising:

lingual tabs extending from the base wherein the lingual tabs

extend rearward into the mouth when the base is worn by the user.

Claim 83 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 79 further comprising:

a wire embedded within the base.

Claim 84 (currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 79 further comprising:

a liner on the base wherein the liner causes adhesion between the base and the teeth of the user when the dental appliance is worn by the user.

Claim 85 (currently amended): A dental appliance adapted to be worn in a mouth of a user having one or more types of teeth, the dental appliance comprising:

a generally U-shaped base having a flat occlusal surface wherein the flat occlusal surface is shaped to contact ~~contacts~~ the teeth of the user wherein the base is preformed and designed from a digital model by a computer wherein the base is sized to correspond to the digital model wherein the digital model corresponds to the teeth of the user; and

sockets within the flat occlusal surface wherein one of the sockets is sized to receive ~~receives~~ one or more teeth of the user wherein at least one of the sockets separates a first tooth from a second tooth wherein at least one of the sockets is sized to receive a canine type tooth and to move the canine type tooth with respect to the teeth when the base is worn by the user.

Claim 86 (currently amended): The dental appliance of Claim 85 wherein the base is molded from a computer program.

Claim 87 (previously presented): The dental appliance of Claim 85 wherein the base is molded by a vacuum, a pressure type device or stereolithography.